Roach Family Support Committee

A public meeting is being called to discuss

Colin Roach, the police, Black people and the state

Speakers will include:
Roach Family Support Committee
Newham 8 Defence Campaign
National Campaign Against the Police Bill

14th December
7:30pm (sharp!)
Assembly Rooms, Hackney Town Hall, Mare St., E8

Buses: 253, 106, 55, 277, 278
Tube: Bethnal Green
Overground: Hackney Central, Hackney Downs

All conscious Black people and other progressive peoples are welcome to attend

Colin Roach, the police, Black people and the state

Abstract

"The experience of the Black masses during the decade of the seventies has alerted us to what underlies the superficial appearance of the British State: Namely that normal processes of political authority, when they cannot proceed by co-operation proceed through confrontation and, at a higher level, through the states orchestration and legitimation of repression."

"The Empire Strikes Back — Race and Racism in 70's Britain"

When we begin to describe the 1980's in Britain as the decade of increasing State authoritarianism, it is the developments indicated above that we are refering to and elaborating upon. These developments certainly pre-date the 1970's and show every sign of entrenchment and deterioration throughout the 1980's ... unless outbreaks of resistance condense into movements of permanent opposition.

By now we should realise that State oppression has assumed a permanent feature of Black peoples lives.

Throughout the 1980's State oppression will increasingly condition and regulate the lives and experiences of other large sections of working class people.

The Major question for the 1980's particularly for conscious Black people and other progressive peoples, is: How are we to campaign against State oppression and injustice in the midst of the State failing to manage the economic crisis and attempting to institute coercive political measures?

We make these necessarily political remarks because this is the basic context in which the campaign for an independent public inquiry into the death of Colin Roach and all the surrounding circumstances is taking place.

Colin Roach's death remains an unqualified mystery. So far the Home Secretary (the State) has refused to authorize an inquiry. These are the basic facts which much be challenged — they have not changed.

The Home Secretary's (the State) opposition to an inquiry was based on the State's commitment to establish (and therefore not bring into question) its policing strategy for the 1980's: the intrusive surveillance tactics contained in the possibilities of neighbourhood watch and neighbourhood policing and the authoritarian license inscribed in the excessive powers provided for in the Police Bill.

It is in the face of this that the campaign must be continued.

This public meeting has been called to discuss the ways in which campaigns must be prepared to campaign in more concentrated and longer term efforts than we have previously been prepared to do. We must in other words have the commitment to campaign in a systematic drawn-out fashion since this is how the State oppresses us. In our view there is no other way. This is why in 1984 we shall still be saying:

NO COVER-UP
BREAK LINKS

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